

Department of Environmental Protection  
Government of Maine  
February 18, 2020

Re: Nordic Aquafarm's Permits, requested from the BEP

To Whom It May Concern:

I live in Swanville, a town which borders Belfast and is actually on the Belfast Water District's aquifer. As far as I know, the City of Belfast has not discussed this proposed huge project with the town formally, but I have been following the proceedings carefully for over the past year. And I have many concerns.

If Nordic had come to the area with a much smaller facility plan, given that land based RAS systems to successfully raise Salmon to full size for market is still in the experimental phase, and requested a building permit in the already zoned Industrial Park in Belfast, they would not have had so much opposition. However, they did not. They persist on permitting for a huge factory which will necessitate cutting down 40 acres of old (and loved) forest, a natural habitat for many species both plant and animal, and adjacent to the Little River, which is protected for the return of Wild Salmon--which will clearly be put at great risk. And using water from three sources that could indeed affect our aquifer.

**For the BEP, the hearings clearly held many unanswered questions, and they mirror my concerns.**

--We still do not know what feed will be used, and therefore not the content of the effluent; NOrdic could not answer questions about water stagnation in the Bay, the risk of algae blooms, and concerns about affecting other local aquaculture projects. Indeed they do not seem to have considered other local aquaculture projects at all.

--The temperature being raised in the Bay and what that can mean for our lobster industry--even though Nordic reports a very "slight" temperature increase, with 7.7 million gallons of discharge a day, this could be significant. Their models of how the effluent will flow do not seem adequate at this time.

--Mercury being released by building the pipeline into the Bay--this is also not been adequately studied..

--**An Environmental Impact Study** seems a reasonable request for such a huge project next to a protected river, and the Penobscot Bay--just recovering for several fisheries now, after decades of contamination by both the chicken and the paper industries. Northport, being downstream, is at particular risk.

--We also need clear binding financial agreements in place so that the taxpayers do not have to pick up the tab if this new industry does not turn a profit, or, more likely, loses its investors given the risks of die off, disease, or sinking buildings, such as what is happening in Fredrikstadt.

--Air quality regulation--especially in the 5-7 years of construction (ever build a house?) and who and how will this be monitored? Noise, odor, who is monitoring?

I have many more concerns. I do not envy your position. It is a very big project and will affect the entire coast of Maine, our children and grandchildren. Please remember that we have many other choices, new local aquaculture products, continuing to protect our lobster industry, local food and agriculture bringing our young people back to the state--a state proud of her beautiful land and waters. PLEASE do not permit Nordic Aquafarms at this size and great risk. Preserve our heritage. Protect our Bay.

Sincerely,  
Meredith Bruskin, FNP